

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
March 24, 2011
7:00 pm

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, Chairman; Don Watson; Jim Sullivan; Joanne Parsons; Dale Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the chairman. Motion made by Mary Ellen Lemay, seconded by Joanne Parsons to approved the minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting as posted on the web. Approved unanimously.

Mary Ellen Lemay welcomed Jim Sullivan as an official member of the Commission. He works for the EPA in New York City and has held several positions in this area.

Single Stream Recycling

Mary Ellen noted the owner of the facility in Shelton which was visited by the Commission has applied to the State DEP for a permit to open as a single stream recycling facility. This would be one of the only places around and we would have to bid out to them when we are ready to begin designing our single stream program in Trumbull. The permit has been approved and there is now a 30 day waiting period. Letters of support were written by the members of the Trumbull Conservation Commission. She noted there is one individual appealing this approval. The Commission will keep up with regards to the status of the facility and if approved, will begin designing our program.

John Marsillio is in favor of this type of recycling. Currently we pay for our recycling plan with other facilities. With this new facility, they would pay us and reduce our cost. With single stream recycling, 80% of the trash is recycled and 20% sent to a burn plant. The town would need to invest some money into the ability of the current transfer station to deal with the new recycling system and provide town recycling containers.

Members of the commission who were unable to attend the last tour with contact the facility for a visit.

Discussion was held regarding the river clean-up and disposition of the trash. Trumbull Community Women also have scheduled a Clean Up Trumbull which could be a test of the facility. John Marsillio will be contacted regarding this.

The new facility would be able to recycle other containers than just #1 and #2 plastics. It currently cannot take organic or liquid waste.

GIS

Joanne and Dale Parsons have the current pilot format for the GIS. Steve Savarese has taken the lead and will be conducting training for the town departments. This could be used for open space mapping for the Commission and will be on the town web site for public use. Training dates have not been set. Jim Sullivan may be available to attend this training.

Mary Ellen reported on the CT Land Conservation Conference. She noted several interesting workshops including GIS, habitat management, and land trust management. Don Watson discussed other workshops that Commission members should attend.

Pequonnock River Initiative

Fuss & O'Neil completed a draft report which is available on line. This includes photographs of the water sheds that need to be addressed. Link has been sent to all Commission members. Recommendations have been included for certain areas in town. This includes a lot of information and the Commission will need to determine what is to be addressed. April is the deadline for completion of the report and then the work will begin in the municipalities. Final report is due to the state in July. Don Watson noted funding is available. Once approved by the state, the initiative qualifies for multi-year funding through grants and other sources. State representative like our projects which include water shed initiatives.

Once the Fuss & O'Neil report is completed, it will fall into the hands of the Commission to work on. The state is particularly interested in water quality which should be addressed. Monroe is currently developing standards and re-doing their regulations. Trumbull completed this process last year. We need to have all the commissions on board to address the river edge buffer management issue. Funding will need to be secured. Save the Sound has identified a foundation for funding. Work has been done on an application for a \$20,000 grant which should be awarded in July. Don noted we need to get the other commissions on board, as well as the town officials, to say they are behind us with this plan.

Letter from Jim Sullivan was reviewed. He noted 3 high priority individuals not in compliance with quarry regulations. It was suggested that we address the individuals involved. Don suggested this letter be taken to the meeting on March 29 where the town officials of the various locations can address this concern. Truck washing was also cited.

Discussion was held regarding the Pequonnock River and its historic value. Much has changed over the years throughout the entire river valley. Beardsley Park and the original plans were discussed including their historical value. Don also noted a biologist species list should be included in the report.

Trumbull Nature Center

Don reported Pam, who met with the Conservation Commission, has gone to the Parks Commission and was met with opposition. The Parks Commission chair has set up a sub-committee consisting of three members of the Parks Commission and three outside members. Don is a member of the committee but is an independent member and non-voting. Meeting was held and it was agreed to evaluate every reasonable site, including the current site. The recommendation will return to the Parks Commission for approval.

The Parks Commission is aware that this facility will be a part of the parks & recs properties and will serve the entire community. Our current facility does not have the capability to host large gatherings.

Library

Meeting was held regarding the tree removal and parking lot construction at the Library. It was agreed to replant trees after the construction is done according to the plans submitted by Joanne and Dale. The Library is only funding a portion of the construction. The Library contribution to the funding is uncertain.

Old Mine Park Restoration Grant

Don noted this has been addressed.

IWWC Applications

Dale reviewed the application packet which was approved. One is being continued. The second is for rebuilding of a septic system within 100 feet of the wetlands. This is a safety issue and Steve Savarese has approved. Motion to accept the application made by Mary Ellen, seconded by Don. Unanimous.

Landscape Preservation Ordinance

Mary Ellen reported she has been in contact with John Marsillio regarding this. We have not completed a draft of such an ordinance although we do have several drafts from various towns. If approved, Trumbull would be the first to have such an ordinance on the books. John is supportive of this concept. We need to separate out how the ordinance would affect the homeowner versus the developers. The focus would be an ordinance to prevent large scale clearing of the land and the removal of trees that would negatively impact the landscape and streetscape.

Discussion was held regarding particular circumstances which might be addressed. Current practice was discussed with regard to tree removal and the tree warden's responsibilities per contract. Informing the public with regarding to tree removal should be addressed.

Draft ordinance will be presented to John Marsillio for review.

Budget for 2011

Mary Ellen reported the budget has been approved.

New Business

Don Parsons distributed newsletters.

Action Items for Commission

1. Report on Pequonnock River Initiative; prepare presentation to the Town of Trumbull EMS - Don
2. Landscape/Tree Ordinance – Joanne/Mary Ellen
3. IWWC
4. Single Stream Recycling – town and Trumbull Community Women's clean-up; collect info for Commission on plans – Jim

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk